

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a predetermined tab
5 sheet bundle, comprising:

a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

10 a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet bundle to the image transfer position via a second conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges
15 each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

20 a page order-designating device that designates page order of tab sheets fed from said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device;

a storage device that stores sheet management information indicating the page order designated for
25 said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device by said page order-designating device in correlation with said first sheet feed device and said

second sheet feed device;

a tab sheet feed-instructing device that instructs feeding of the tab sheets; and

a controller responsive to instruction of feeding
5 of the tab sheets by said tab sheet feed-instructing device, for providing control to automatically select said first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device that can feed tab sheets that enable a valid image transfer result to be obtained, according to a
10 sheet discharge destination selected by a user for said first sheet discharge device or said second sheet discharge device and the page order designated for said first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device, indicated by the sheet management information.

15 2. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a predetermined tab sheet bundle, comprising:

a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet bundle to an
20 image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet bundle to the image transfer position via a second conveying path
25 without the tab sheet being inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet

bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the predetermined tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

5 a page order-designating device that designates whether type of sheets fed from said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device is a type other than a tab sheet or the tab sheet, and designates page order thereof if the designated type is the tab
10 sheet;

a storage device that stores sheet management information indicating the type and page order designated for said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device by said page order-designating
15 device in correlation with said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device;

a tab sheet feed-instructing device that instructs feeding of the tab sheets; and

a controller responsive to instruction of feeding
20 of the tab sheets by said tab sheet feed-instructing device, for providing control to automatically select said first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device that can feed tab sheets that enable a valid image transfer result to be obtained, according to a
25 sheet discharge destination selected by a user for said first sheet discharge device or said second sheet discharge device and the page order designated for said

first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device, indicated by the sheet management information.

3. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:
5 a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

10 a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to the image transfer position via a second conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges
15 each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

20 a sheet discharge device-selecting device that selects said first sheet discharge device or said second sheet discharge device;

a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order
25 or in the reverse order in said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to selection of said first

sheet discharge device, for providing control to select said first sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order or said second sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the reverse order.

4. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:

a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to the image transfer position via a second conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

a sheet discharge device-selecting device that selects said first sheet discharge device or said second sheet discharge device;

a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order

or in the reverse order in said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to selection of said second sheet discharge device, for providing control to
5 select said first sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the reverse order or said second sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order.

5. An image forming apparatus capable of
10 sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:

a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet
15 being inverted;

a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to the image transfer position via a second conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

20 a first sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a
25 face-down state;

a tab sheet feed-instructing device that instructs feeding of the tab sheets;

a selection device that selects said first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device;

a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order
5 or in the reverse order in said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to selection of said first sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order, for providing control to select said
10 first sheet discharge device.

6. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:

a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the
15 tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to the image
20 transfer position via a second conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

25 a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

a tab sheet feed-instructing device that instructs feeding of the tab sheets;

a selection device that selects said first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device;

5 a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order or in the reverse order in said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to selection of said first
10 sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the reverse order, for providing control to select said second sheet discharge device.

7. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle
15 set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:

a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

20 a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to the image transfer position via a second conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges
25 each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges

each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

a selection device that selects said first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device;

5 a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order or in the reverse order in said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to selection of said
10 second sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order, for providing control to select said second sheet discharge device.

8. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle
15 set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:

a first sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a first conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

20 a second sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to the image transfer position via a second conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges
25 each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges

each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

a selection device that selects said first sheet feed device or said second sheet feed device;

5 a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order or in the reverse order in said first sheet feed device and said second sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to selection of said
10 second sheet feed device in which a tab sheet bundle is set in the reverse order, for providing control to select said first sheet discharge device.

9. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle
15 set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:

a sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer portion via a conveying path with the tab sheet being inverted;

20 a first sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a
25 face-down state;

a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order

or in the reverse order in said sheet feed device; and
a controller responsive to a tab sheet bundle
being set in the normal order in said sheet feed device,
for providing control to cause said first sheet
5 discharge device to discharge each of the tab sheets of
the tab sheet bundle set in said sheet feed device.

10. An image forming apparatus capable of
sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle
set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:
10 a sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab
sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer
portion via a conveying path with the tab sheet being
inverted;

a first sheet discharge device that discharges
15 each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a
face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges
each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a
face-down state;

20 a managing device that manages information as to
whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order
or in the reverse order in said sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to a tab sheet bundle
being set in the reverse order in said sheet feed
25 device, for providing control to cause said second
sheet discharge device to discharge each of the tab
sheets of the tab sheet bundle set in said sheet feed

device.

11. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:
- 5 a sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer position via a conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;
- a first sheet discharge device that discharges
- 10 each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;
- a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;
- 15 a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order or in the reverse order in said sheet feed device; and
- a controller responsive to a tab sheet bundle being set in the normal order in said sheet feed device,
- 20 for providing control to cause said second sheet discharge device to discharge each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle set in said sheet feed device.
12. An image forming apparatus capable of sequentially feeding tab sheets of a tab sheet bundle
- 25 set in a normal order or a reverse order, comprising:
- a sheet feed device that feeds each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle to an image transfer

portion via a conveying path without the tab sheet being inverted;

5 a first sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-up state;

a second sheet discharge device that discharges each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle in a face-down state;

10 a managing device that manages information as to whether a tab sheet bundle is set in the normal order or in the reverse order in said sheet feed device; and

a controller responsive to a tab sheet bundle being set in the reverse order in said sheet feed device, for providing control to cause said first sheet
15 discharge device to discharge each of the tab sheets of the tab sheet bundle set in said sheet feed device.